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THE VOICE OF THE KEY PENINSULA

November 2016 Vol.43 No. 11

Homeless Student Numbers Increasing

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Wendy Wojtanowicz, the Communities In Schools of Peninsula site coordinator at Key Peninsula Middle School and Peninsula High, has seen the face of homelessness in our community too many times.

“John” was referred to CISP because of repeated absences. As part of the program, he received tutoring twice a week. Over a period of about a month, he revealed that he had been living in a car with his mother for the last year. They parked the car in various locations, so he never had a stable place to catch the school bus. Without dependable transportation, he missed school.

Wojtanowicz stepped in to find help for both student and parent. She located a steady pickup and drop-off site for the bus. CISP was able to provide a laptop with hotspot access to the internet for homework (a program that is no longer available). The YMCA provided shower facilities and the local food bank supplied food that did not require cooking.

John’s mother had lost her job after a work-related injury. She had a cellphone, but any minutes on it were precious. Wojtanowicz helped her find local resources for jobs and she found employment. Once employed, they concentrated on housing. Wojtanowicz connected her with Associated Ministries in Tacoma and coached her on navigating the system to find local housing.

And, finally, John received counseling to help him address issues arising from the stress of his homeless experience. (Some identifying details, including his name, have been changed to protect the family’s privacy.)

“This is not isolated,” Wojtanowicz said. “It feels like I see one or two a week in similar circumstances.”

The number of local students identified as homeless has recently skyrocketed. According to Peninsula School District, there were 31 homeless students in the district in 2011-12. Last year, it was 127. Thirty-seven have already been identified this school year.

PSD coordinates services for these students with counselors at each school. “We have

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Evergreen second-grader Raina Torres observes how red wiggler worms respond to light and dark. *Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News*

Evergreen Elementary Goes Full STEAM

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Enthusiasm for learning is in the air inside and outside as Evergreen becomes the first elementary school in the Peninsula School District to become a fully integrated STEAM school.

STEM is a buzzword in education across the nation. This familiar acronym stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The extra “A” in STEAM is for art.

The spark for change came nearly four years ago when Principal Hugh Maxwell and third-grade teacher Therese Souers attended a technology conference in Seattle. During one of the presentations by an Idaho grade school transitioning to STEM, they watched video footage of students working collaboratively in small groups. One student was assigned to record video of

the process on an iPad as the rest conducted their science experiment.

“You couldn’t have torn those kids away from the activity,” Maxwell said. Afterward, the students were eager to go back and watch the video multiple times to really understand what was happening. Technology allowed them to participate fully in the moment yet enabled them to review the process as often as needed to drive home the lessons learned, he said.

“We have a great curriculum in the district, but it becomes pretty wide and lacks the depth we’d like,” Maxwell said. “There is a lot of pressure on students to perform well on state tests and I worry that’s where we lose some of the kids.

“We typically see STEM programs start at the high school level and filter down,” Maxwell said. “Why not start when children

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Candidates Answer KP Voters’ Questions

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

Nine candidates running for county, state and national offices answered audience questions at a KP Civic Center forum Oct. 4 organized by the KP Business Association, KP Civic Center Association, KP Community Council and the KP News. Community Council President and Key Peninsula Fire Department Battalion Chief Chuck West moderated.

The candidates included:

- Todd Bloom (R) running for the 6th Congressional District seat held by U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer (D). A representative for Kilmer read a statement in his absence.
- Larry Seaquist (D) and State Rep. Jesse Young (R), running for state Legislative District 26, Position 1;
- State Rep. Michelle Caldier (R) and Randy Spitzer (D), running for state Legislative District 26, Position 2;
- Former State Sen. Bruce Dammeier (R) and Pierce County Councilman Rick Talbert (D), running for Pierce County executive;
- Mike Lonergan (NP), running unopposed for re-election as Pierce County assessor-treasurer; and Paul Pastor (NP), running unopposed for re-election as Pierce County sheriff.

Below are excerpts from candidates’ answers to some of the questions relevant to the office they hold or are seeking. Since not all questions pertained to all positions, excerpts are arranged by subject and appear in the order they were given.

How will you bring improved government service to the KP?

Talbert: How we can serve the citizens throughout the vast geographic area of Pierce County is through technological advances; we can take advantage of that to bring county government into every home. The county council district I represent now has the highest level of poverty, the lowest income,

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STEAM FROM PAGE 1

are young, naturally curious and creative, beginning in preschool and the early primary levels instead of waiting until middle school or high school?"

Making the transition to the STEAM program required teachers willing to embrace and develop an integrated teaching approach in their classrooms. In order for it to work throughout the school, everyone needed to be on board. As teachers attended conferences, visited other schools and learned more about how STEAM engaged students and improved outcomes, a renewed sense of enthusiasm began to take hold, Maxwell said.

The district acquired the adjacent 2½ acres north of the school many years ago for possible building expansion or parking in the future. The previously logged parcel sat idle and the land was quickly overgrown by invasive Himalayan blackberry vines.

Souers and her fellow teachers saw the possibility of creating an outdoor learning center on the lot, including restoring native flora and fauna and creating habitat for bugs, worms, frogs, birds and butterflies in an easily accessible place for students to experience the many levels of biodiversity on the Key Peninsula.

"We want to get a committee together to begin plantings, like a native garden specifically to attract butterflies," Souers said. "We'll have to get a class or two together to commit to caring for that."

Students will need basic things like gloves and shovels. Community support from garden clubs, conservation groups and others could play an important role in making the outdoor learning center successful, she said.

"We know we could be doing more with the existing playground and we're looking at getting things that will be more interactive for students," Souers said. "For some kids, recess with unstructured time can be difficult, so we're working to get educational outdoor things to keep them entertained in productive ways."

"We know our community is full of resources with people in STEM-related jobs and the arts, the very things that can so enrich our students' lives," Maxwell said. "One of the big things we want to do is reach out to this community for people who want to make a difference."

Evergreen Elementary is at 1820 Key Peninsula Hwy S in Lakebay. Call 530-1300 for more information, to volunteer or to offer donations.

CANDIDATES FROM PAGE 1

of all of the county council, so I understand what it's like to represent people who feel like they've been left behind often by their government. We just need to be smarter about how we deliver services.

Dammeier: First of all, I think we should return the sheriff's office to the end of 302. The second thing I would do is look at mental health needs. I'm proud to have worked with Jesse (Young) and Michelle (Caldier) to hold the tolls flat when I was in the Senate. If those tolls get too high, it's going to create a wall—an economic wall and a cultural wall—between the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor and the rest of the county.

Loneragan: The assessor-treasurer's office is a nonpartisan position; what we call a ministerial position. In other words, if you do it all right, there shouldn't be a lot of controversy. Here on Key Peninsula, you have one of the lowest tax rates in the county. You pay \$12 per \$1,000 of value in your home or business and if you live in Tacoma you'd be paying over \$16 per \$1,000. When you do see your values go up 8.8 percent, as they did this year, do not then assume your taxes are going to go up 8.8 percent. Typically, taxes go up 1 percent a year plus whatever voted taxes you have decided on in your

own school district, fire district.

Bloom: The big issue for me right now is our economic growth and getting the economy running again. We've seen median household incomes that continue to suffer even though we've got good unemployment rates. The labor participation rate is still very, very low; it rivals the rate at the end of the Carter administration. My solution would be relieving regulation on small business and tax relief for American taxpayers. I believe that would go a long way toward stimulating the economy.

Pastor: You're underserved. This area is growing and you don't have a live body at your precinct right now. There's something wrong with that. I'm spending less than half than any law enforcement agency in Pierce County per capita per year. I've been arguing years for more service. We may have an opening now for more service; I'd appreciate your help with that. (Pastor was delayed coming to the forum and delivered only one statement.)

How will you help the state fix SR-302?

Seaquist: We all know we need a new 302 and we need to decide what that route will be. Almost certainly the east end is going to come across the top of Burley Lagoon, not



Candidates Michelle Caldier, Randy Spitzer, Jesse Young, Larry Seaquist and Todd Bloom.

over it, and we have to figure out where it connects into 16. Those are citizen decisions, but we need some state money to fund that thinking and planning process and then enough money to go ahead and build it all the way to Allyn. There's one more thing we have to do at the same time: We've got to renegotiate the (Tacoma Narrows) Bridge deal. We got screwed on that deal. That new gas tax should also be helping pay for our tolls, just like we're helping pay for everybody else's bridges.

Young: I serve on the transportation committee. Over the course of this past interim, since we've been out of session, I've brought out funding and helped the regional (transportation) managers to bring money out here to fix your crosswalks and bring attention to this area. I'm also leading the effort to get their budgeting redone so we don't have to compete with funding that goes toward the Hood Canal Bridge.

(Narrows) bridge tolls doubled under his (Seaquist's) watch. All we ever got, from all the legislators that sat here, was, "You can't do anything to refinance the tolls." Yet that's exactly the solution I got done for you this year, the first Legislature that ever thought to sit down with the state treasurer and renegotiate how they do their account budgeting so they could actually bring state money into this account.

Spitzer: Like you, I've been traveling on Highway 302 and watching traffic explode, and I share your concerns about what's going on. I'd certainly fight, even before we got money for other projects, to at least restore the bus schedule we had out here before and extend those even further. I agree also that we need to be looking for some alternatives to Highway 302. Frankly, I think legislators who have been in high-density areas have been soaking up transportation dollars incredibly and it's time for more rural areas to get some of those dollars flowing in this direction.

Caldier: There's a huge disconnect between the people and what happens in Olympia, and that has happened for far too long. I had the Pierce County lobbyist in my office telling me to vote for the gas tax, asking for a couple billion dollars, and I said "Wait, what's in it for my district? What about the Purdy Spit?" And she said, "What's the Purdy Spit?" I've made a commitment to make sure that we are a priority, and (WSDOT) told me they are going to plan on putting another lane in to at least alleviate some of the congestion right there around Peninsula High School.

Do you endorse your party's candidate for president?

Bloom: I was a little bit late to support our nominee, Donald Trump, but I do support him for president. I certainly don't approve of all the statements he's made over the course of the campaign. Whoever becomes our next president, I think it's incredibly important that we have adult supervision, that we have a Congress that represents our values and who will be able to effectively address our key and most pressing issues, which I believe are our economy, our defense and our security. Even if our commander in chief is untrustworthy or not very knowledgeable about that, we need to have people in Congress who can do that job from day one.

Seaquist: My wife, Carla, and I both support Hillary, but what I would like to say though is that I have a deep admiration for Bernie's energy, for his critique of what our problems were, for his insistence that we act. Those were very important things for the country to hear. There's one thing Clinton is saying that I strongly disagree with: She is proposing an approach to education that is highly federal. We should bring education to the local level. I oppose charter schools, I oppose federal testing, and I think we're going to have to do battle with our first



Candidates Bruce Dammeier, Rick Talbert and Mike Lonergan. Photos: Ted Olinger, KP News

woman president on education.

Young: As an IT professional that understands global commerce, that has set up email servers, understands data security, what (Clinton) did with her emails, the way she put our national security at risk and then lied about it, is someone I cannot support. That unfortunately leaves me with one person that—I don't know what the heck he's going to do. I do know that when I was working as a software engineer down in California, I had the realization that if I didn't enter politics, my kids were going to be faced with not getting the high-paying jobs. Because if you walked around the floors of the IT shops that I worked in California, you would be able to count on your fingers how many native-born American people are working those jobs these days. Those jobs are going to all the people from India and they're going to all the people from China. They're basically importing them, except now they've gotten good enough over on those foreign shores that they're exporting those jobs. I do know that Donald J. Trump does know a little bit about global commerce, and that's who I'll be voting for.

Spitzer: When it came to caucus time here, I was a Bernie supporter. My wife was a Hillary supporter. I'm very comfortable with supporting her for president. I'm a bit concerned that she's become so beat up the last 20, 30 years that she tends to equivocate, doesn't come straight out with things as much as she should, but I am horrified by what I see coming from Donald Trump.

Caldier: Donald Trump was not my No. 1 choice. I happen to really like his choice in Pence. One of my great passions is government accountability. I think that's one of the biggest problems that we currently have in our state and in our country, and that's something I've tried to champion myself since I've been in office. Honestly, I think that Trump would do a far better job of having a system of checks and balances on

our government.

Loneragan: Did I mention earlier that I'm running for a nonpartisan position? I'm very interested in our local government here. I will be working with one of these two gentlemen (Dammeier or Talbert) and the state knows we have a Pierce County delegation. We all work together. We can be a force by being for you and not for one party or the other. But, I'm not going to dodge the question. My wife is very active in the Republican Party, she is very persuasive, so I am going to be voting for Mr. Trump.

Talbert: We have 850,000 citizens in Pierce County and every single one of them deserve to be represented; not by a Republican, not by a Democrat, but by the people who are sent there to do their work. That is the approach I have taken to my job every single day. I represent 850,000 people. Not what the Democratic Party wants, not what Rick Talbert wants, but what's important to the citizens. The things that are important to Pierce County aren't partisan. I'm going to be supporting Hillary Clinton because frankly I don't think the other option is even viable.

Dammeier: I saw a survey the other day that said 57 percent of the American public are not voting for a candidate, they're voting against a candidate. That is a huge problem. One of the things that has been refreshing in this race (with Talbert) is we do this a lot and I would tell you that clearly we're very different candidates and I would tell you that I think I am certainly the more qualified candidate, right? Wouldn't surprise you to hear that. But I would tell you I don't think Rick is a bad candidate, and I wish that is what we had—I wish that those were our choices for president. On voting, so I'm not dodging anything, I'm not going to vote for Hillary, but I honestly haven't decided who I'm going to vote for yet. I'm still struggling with that.

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The old Vaughn Library Hall as it appears today. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

Vaughn Library Hall Acquired by KPHS

STAFF REPORT

The Key Peninsula Historical Society now owns the old Vaughn Library on Hall Road, the first and last remaining meeting hall built on the KP at the end of the 19th century. “We are very excited to get started on this project,” said KPHS President Judy Mills after signing the papers Oct. 13. The historical society voted to accept donation of the old hall at its annual meeting March 19.

The building that began as a Fourth of July dance floor called The Bowery in 1889 became a library in 1893 through the efforts of the Library Association, formed by a group of pioneer women headed by Sarah Bassett and Cornelia Hall.

Alfred Van Slyke owned the property and his son, Harmon, Sr., bought it when the library moved to the KP Civic Center. Harmon and his wife turned it into their home, which was last occupied by their grandson, Gerald (Jerry) Wolniewicz. His sister, Donna Docken, the great-granddaughter of Alfred, made the donation.

The building was the first community hall built on the Key Peninsula and is one of the few original historic buildings left. It became the gathering place for various groups, including Vaughn Union High School, church and Sunday school, clubs and social events.

“We are proceeding slowly in cleaning to uncover potential artifacts and not just dump everything,” Mills said.

Due to limited parking, the hall will eventually be used only for storage and display of items that do not fit in the museum space, and for special events with parking shuttles.

“It’s a very long-term project getting state, county and historic site registration,” Mills said.



In September the Angel Guild awarded a grant to:
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an amazing number of community volunteers,” said Lisa Reaugh, assistant director of student services at PSD. “Our goal is to have each student have an uninterrupted educational experience, and to stay in the same school if at all possible.”

CISP, a national organization, was established in this area in 2000. Its office is next door to the Red Barn in Key Center. It provides coordinators who work directly with students and their families at Evergreen and Vaughn Elementary and at KPMS and Peninsula High. The coordinators develop relationships with the students and work with other organizations to meet basic housing and food needs while also identifying volunteers to mentor and tutor students. For schools without site coordinators, families or students can contact CISP directly.

Any family or child can talk to any adult at their school and get a referral to the school counselor or the CISP site coordinator for help. PSD also administers a survey to all new students (and will expand to reach all students) to screen for those who may need help, according to Reaugh.

But it can be a challenge to identify the students.

“There is a lot of distrust about opening up to having any issues,” said Laurel Shultz, CISP program director. “They want to be

seen as self-sufficient, not taking advantage of systems. In many cases, they don’t even know that help is available, and once they do they are leery of accepting it. There’s pride.”

The definition of homelessness for students is broad and they are eligible for many services. It includes anyone without a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including migrant and unaccompanied children. This includes children who are temporarily sharing housing with others; who are living in hotels, campgrounds, emergency shelters or cars; or who are awaiting foster care or are in temporary placements.

“The site coordinators worked with 24 students considered homeless on the Key Peninsula last year,” said Shultz. “That’s an anecdotal number not necessarily reflected in our data system, but tracked confidentially because it’s often difficult to get parent permission to help a homeless student.”

“The homeless numbers around Harbor Heights are higher than KP,” said Colleen Speer, CISP executive director. “But there are so many untracked residents out here that there could be many, many homeless kids and we can’t get to them if they don’t go to school. That’s the sad part, because we hear things from other families.”

“What I see, too, with free and reduced lunch, is that elementary school kids and their families are way more apt to sign up,

but by the time kids get older, that changes,” Shultz said. “High school students especially, they don’t want to say, ‘I need a free lunch.’ You don’t want to be designated as needing anything when you’re in high school, not even a pen.”

“CISP works with kids to assure academic and social/emotional success, to keep kids in school,” Wojtanowicz said. “Inadequate food and shelter get in the way of meeting those goals and need to be solved first. There are just not sufficient resources in place to meet those basic needs.”

Children’s Home Society, a statewide nonprofit with an office at the KP Civic Center, is another local resource that serves about 1,000 people a year with a clothing bank, emergency rent and utility assistance, and after-school programs in all PSD elementary schools and at KPMS.

“I know that school personnel take care of lunch and breakfast for kids they know are homeless, so at least they’re getting some food, and then there’s the Food Backpacks 4 Kids program (which provides food for weekends or longer),” said Jud Morris, director of Children’s Home Society. “It’s one of these things where everyone is trying to take care of everything else, but the housing component is so beyond everyone’s scope or finances.”

Finding housing for families is one of the largest unmet needs on the Key Peninsula because there are very few options, Wojtanowicz said. The Westwynd Motel has been generous in offering short-term transitional housing. Associated Ministries and Olive Crest (in Tacoma and working primarily with foster home placements) have been helpful. Once housed, families can go to NW Furniture Bank, which now partners with CISP.

“These are our families,” Wojtanowicz said. “Many have simply fallen on hard times and need help to get back on their feet.”

A group including CISP, CHS, PSD, the Tacoma Health Department and FISH Food Bank have met to compare their collective data with the latest U.S. census and concluded there is an unmet need for transitional housing in this community.

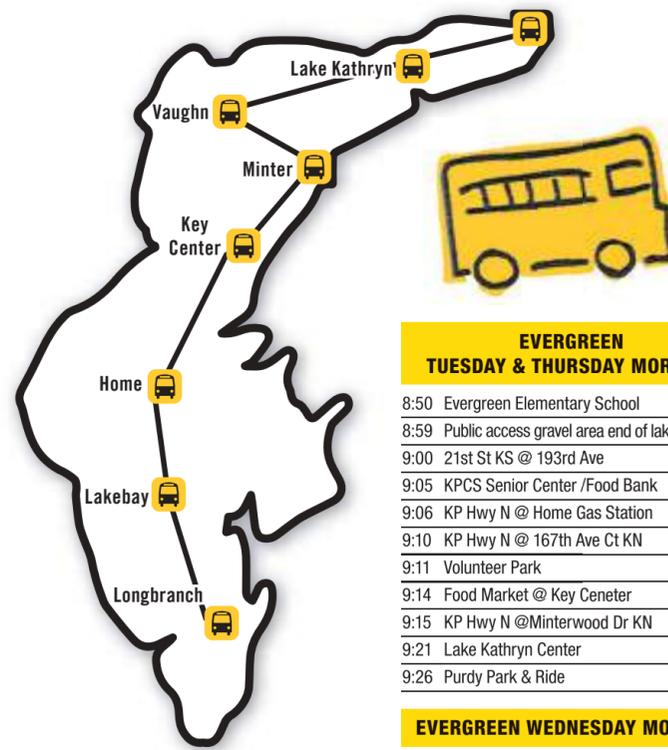
Wojtanowicz said the next step will be to work on answers.

WANT TO HELP? CONTACT:
Communities In Schools of Peninsula
peninsula.CISwa.org, 884-5733
(Mentor training begins Nov. 2)
Children’s Home Society
childrenshomesociety.org, 884-5433
Wendy Wojtanowicz
wendy@CISofpeninsula.org,
530-4408, 530-4425

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VAUGHN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 9:56 Hall Rd KPN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 9:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 9:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 10:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 10:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 10:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 10:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 8:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 9:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 9:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 9:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 9:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 9:11 Volunteer Park
- 9:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 9:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
- 9:21 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

EVERGREEN WEDNESDAY MORNING

- 9:50 Evergreen Elementary School
- 9:59 Public access gravel area end of lake
- 10:00 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave
- 10:05 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 10:06 KP Hwy N @ Home Gas Station
- 10:10 KP Hwy N @ 167th Ave Ct KN
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- 10:15 KP Hwy N @ Minterwood Dr KN
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- 10:26 Purdy Park & Ride

VAUGHN TUESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

- 8:50 Vaughn Elementary School
- 8:56 Hall Rd KN @ S. Vaughn Rd KN
- 8:57 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 8:59 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 9:02 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 9:03 SR302 @ 140th Ave KN
- 9:05 Charbonneau Construction
- 9:08 Lake Kathryn Center
- 9:26 Purdy Park & Ride

TUESDAY & THURSDAY MIDDAY

- 10:47 Peninsula High School
- 10:49 Purdy Park & Ride
- 10:54 Lake Kathryn Center
- 11:03 11615 SR302 @ Windermere Realty
- 11:05 SR302 @ 140th Lake of the Woods
- 11:06 Lake Holiday bus shed
- 11:09 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 11:11 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th Ave KN
- 11:12 Olson Dr & Wright Bliss Rd KN
- 11:14 Food Market @ Key Center
- 11:17 Volunteer Park
- 11:21 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct KN
- 11:24 KP Hwy @ Home Gas Station
- 11:27 KPCS Senior Center /Food Bank
- 11:33 Public Access Gravel Area
- 11:34 21st St KS @ 193rd Ave KS
- 11:40 Evergreen Elementary School

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 4:43 Peninsula High School
- 4:45 Purdy Park & Ride
- 4:51 Lake Kathryn Center
- 4:54 11615 SR 302 Windmere Realty
- 4:58 Lake Holiday bus barn
- 5:00 Union 76 @ Four Corners
- 5:02 Wright Bliss Rd @ 104th St Ct KN
- 5:03 Wright Bliss Rd @ Hall Road N
- 5:05 Food Market @ Key Center
- 5:06 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN
- 5:10 KP Hwy @ 167th Ave Ct
- 5:14 Home Gas Station, KP Hwy
- 5:14 KPCS Senior Center/Food Bank
- 5:19 Public Access Gravel Area
- 5:20 21st Ave KS @ 193rd Ave KS
- 5:24 KP Hwy @ 17th St Ct KS
- 5:36 Red Barn, KP Hwy @ 84th St KN

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Ted Olinger FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Politics has become a toxic subject at social functions. As executive editor of this newspaper, I am frequently called upon to attend such functions in an official capacity and make small talk that is rigidly quotable and often dull (my own included). But at one recent event, a political issue evolved into a new question: Is it patriotic to abstain from voting?

There was some sharp discussion. Who are these voters who think not voting is a vote? How is not voting not a vote? And how will the next president govern a country divided against itself?

One among us said he had just completed a solo motorcycle trip from Maine to Texas and commented on how odd it was to visit 13 states that each had a major city called Fayetteville. The country might not be united, he said, but all those cities and towns with the same name—that meant something. But what?

I remembered the answer from my seventh-grade American history class.

In August 1775, a young Marquis de La Fayette attended a dinner party in Paris with the duke of Gloucester, younger brother of King George III. The duke disagreed with his brother's policies in the American colonies and praised the Americans' recent display of courage at Lexington and Concord. The 18-year-old Lafayette was astonished by these words from the royal family of his country's traditional enemy. "From that hour," he wrote, "I could think of nothing but this enterprise, and I resolved to go."

Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, was born in 1757 to a martial family whose antecedents had fought alongside Joan of Arc and in the Crusades. He wrote in his autobiography, "It's not my fault (but) I was baptized like a Spaniard, with the name of every conceivable saint who might offer me protection in battle."

The young marquis defied the orders of King Louis XVI and sailed to America in 1777. He was a musketeer and an officer, but also a teenager who spoke little English and had never been in battle. Nevertheless, he was given a commission in the Continental Army July 31.

Lafayette was shot through the calf in his

first engagement at the Battle of Brandywine Creek on Sept. 11, the largest and longest single-day fight of the war, but he held his position and prevented a rout as the army retreated to Philadelphia. George Washington promoted him to lieutenant general and gave him his own command.

Lafayette fought in some of the most historic battles in American history and survived the long winter in Valley Forge. He returned to France in 1779 to lobby the king for more French support for the American cause and was immediately arrested. He was also hailed as a hero and released after just eight days. Working with his friend, Benjamin Franklin, Lafayette secured the promise of 6,000 more soldiers to be sent to America and he returned to the fight in 1780 at the nadir of the war.

On Oct. 14, 1781, Lafayette led 400 men with Alexander Hamilton's forces in an attack on two strategic outposts in hand-to-hand combat at Yorktown, successfully breaking the British defense line. Cornwallis surrendered Oct. 19, ending the war.

Lafayette returned to France and joined a national assembly created to respond to rising social tensions. He argued that the group was not truly representative and, on July 1, 1789, presented a draft of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, written with the help of Thomas Jefferson, a document later enshrined in the French Constitution. The royalists blocked his efforts and that of his fellow reformers. Riots broke out and the Bastille was stormed July 14.

Lafayette remained a moderate throughout the French Revolution but was swept up by the terror that followed and spent five years in prison. Though released by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1797, Lafayette refused to swear his allegiance. Napoleon responded by confiscating Lafayette's remaining properties, leaving him destitute. Napoleon abdicated as emperor in 1814 and Lafayette became a member of the chamber of deputies, a position he held for the rest of his life.

In 1824, President James Monroe invited Lafayette to the United States as the nation's guest. When he landed in New York City, 50,000 people—one-third of the city's population—were waiting for him. The celebration lasted four days. He visited all 24 states, his route lined with veterans who wanted to meet the last living Revolutionary War general. Towns changed their name in his honor; parents named their children after him. He returned to Massachusetts in June 1825 to lay the cornerstone of the Bunker

Hill Monument and filled a barrel with soil from the battlefield to take home.

When Lafayette died in 1834 at the age of 74, his eldest son, Georges Washington de La Fayette, covered his coffin with the soil from Bunker Hill. The American flag still flies over his tomb in Paris.

In 2002, Lafayette became the sixth of just eight foreign nationals in our history to be made an honorary U.S. citizen by Congress. Living honorary citizens do not have the right to vote, but were he alive today, I think Lafayette would insist on it.

Meredith Browand KEY ISSUES



Vote for a Safer Washington

Voters in Washington State have an unparalleled opportunity this month to cast a ballot that will save lives. Passing Initiative 1491 would give family members and law enforcement officials the chance to petition a court to remove firearms from individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others. Other states, including Connecticut and California, have similar laws, but Washington is the first state where voters have an opportunity to enact these orders at the ballot box.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders are a tool that families and law enforcement officials can use to suspend an individual's access to firearms based on documented evidence. This evidence is presented to a judge who in turn has the choice, based on the evidence, to enact the order. The individual subject to the order must surrender his or her firearms to law enforcement and will be unable to sell, buy or possess other guns for a period of up to one year, as determined by the judge.

Passing Initiative 1491 will help make our communities safer by giving those most likely to spot a potential tragedy the opportunity to get help for those at risk. Mass shootings, like those at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle in 2006 and Seattle's Cafe Racer in 2012, might have been prevented if family members and law enforcement had the ability to apply for an Extreme Risk Protection Order. However, it isn't just mass shootings that could be stopped. Domestic violence shootings, suicides and individual family tragedies could be prevented if we vote yes for Initiative 1491 in November.

Marilyn Balcerak, Initiative 1491's citizen sponsor, is painfully aware of the impact

Extreme Risk Protection Orders may have on family tragedies. On June 7, 2015, her son, James, bought a gun at a local store, shot and killed his stepsister and then fatally shot himself. Balcerak and her longtime partner, Matt Smith, had tried to intervene multiple times to help James as he struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts. They are confident that had an Extreme Risk Protection Order been available to them, it might have saved their children by deeming James a prohibited firearms purchaser.

Strong support for Initiative 1491 has come from groups across the state, including public health officials, mental health professionals, law enforcement, faith communities, domestic violence prevention organizations and gun violence survivors. Extreme Risk Protection Orders will make a difference in a wide variety of circumstances and empower family members and law enforcement to provide essential help to dangerous individuals or those in danger of harming themselves.

As the epidemic of gun violence grows in our nation, the people of Washington have a unique and powerful opportunity to do something. Voting yes on Initiative 1491 is a step toward a safer Washington.

Meredith Browand is an activist and mother living in Purdy.

Chad Beaver TO YOUR HEALTH



Delaying Maturity

There is a fascinating trend in today's youth that has become a significant hindrance to achieving what have traditionally been considered milestones to maturity.

As we have developed a society based on ease and technology, we have eliminated many rites of passage that were the goals of youth not more than 20 years ago. At the same time, our youth are surpassing older generations with a growing ability to process information.

Dr. James Flynn, a university professor in New Zealand, has shown through analysis of a century's worth of IQ tests that for the past two generations, there has been a consistent increase in mental processing. This "Flynn Effect" has demonstrated that an average of 6 IQ points has been gained per generation. This means that there is more than one standard deviation of IQ

between grandparents and grandchildren, a family dynamic that has grown more and more common in our culture.

The idea that the rites of passages—driving, employment, living independently—are commonly postponed due to economic or other reasons is counterintuitive to the evolution that children are demonstrating. While they have become more capable, we have sheltered them more. As parents, we are often hyper vigilant and overanxious about allowing our children to be independent. At times, we are even hindering their ability to develop age-appropriate skills.

Most of the children I see are very intelligent people and are very observant of the world around them. They watch our behaviors and analyze with a keenness we often don't give them credit for. Children learn to quickly identify their parents' anxiety and fear. Little eyes see everything and little ears hear it all.

To make an intelligent decision, we require two things: an ability to observe and process and a database of information we have built through experience. When children are able to process more quickly and yet are held back from actual real-world experiences, the result is a generation that can theoretically tell us everything but has no practical insight.

This is exacerbated by the flood of negative information we get on a daily basis that warns us to be wary of other people and continually pushes the idea that this world is more troubled than it really is. When we have regular active-shooter drills in school and are afraid to let children walk to the park by themselves, we show them that fear and self-preservation are the most important things. We teach that "I" is more important than "we," and we have developed a society that mirrors this belief—a society where the average McDonald's worker is 28 years old and living at home.

Parents need to assess what milestones signify growth and hold their children to strict measurements. It's not easy, but it is right. Children can appreciate simple things like summer jobs, volunteer opportunities, money-saving skills and work ethics at an early age. Let them follow through. Make them pay for their own driver's education and make them save up and buy the Christmas presents they want to give. Not doing so can potentially hinder moving up the maturity ladder. The chores around the house need to be done before they can move to a paying job and, no, chores do not pay.

These are some simple techniques to help keep kids on a path to maturity.

Chad Beaver is a licensed mental health professional at Key Peninsula Counseling Center.

Dan Whitmarsh WRITING BY FAITH



It's Time to Grow Up, America

We've become the equivalent of a middle school playground.

You remember what it was like. Life was a popularity contest, with bullies, brats and drama queens ruling the playground. The smart students were excluded while their peers admired the brash, obnoxious kids.

This is what our nation seems to have become, though I think the metaphor is beginning to break down. I know middle schoolers, and most of them show more class and maturity than the adults who claim to be in charge.

No longer does wisdom have a voice in this discussion. The adults have left the room. In their place, the bullies and the brats have taken over, drowning out and ostracizing anybody who doesn't look or sound like them or believe what they believe.

We stand on the verge of electing our next president. While I care deeply who that is, I'm even more concerned about what has become of the American people.

Jesus once said, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." This is exactly where we find ourselves—a house dividing against itself, breaking down into cliques on the playground, demanding people give us our way or be crushed. I watch the news and scroll through social media and all I see is anger, vitriol and condemnation. Malicious gossip is shared as if it were fact. People of every race, gender, age, religion and socio-economic class are targets for slander and hatred.

Sometimes it's violent, brash and loud; sometimes it's soft-spoken and demure, but the message is the same. "We," and people like us, have to be in power or calamity will strike, and any concession to the other side is intolerable weakness. "They" are the enemy. "They" must be defeated.

A house divided against itself cannot stand. And yet, this is what we are doing, and what is being done to us. Make no mistake: This ploy of scapegoating in the name of victory isn't an accident, but the work of politicians and those in power who feed into basic human fears and twist them, in order to control them.

Some people do have the right to be angry and demand justice. Some people are

CONTINUED PAGE 8



CIVIC CENTER

Flavors of the World Wrap-Up

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association would like to thank the KP community & friends who helped make our recent fundraiser and gala a wonderful event. Special thanks to generous sponsors:

PLATINUM: Dana's Heating & The Angel Guild

GOLD: Peninsula Light & Taylor Shellfish

SILVER: Waste Connections & The Food Market

TABLE SPONSORS: KP Bus Connects & Todd Rosenbach



Our auction and raffle were very successful thanks to generous donors: Abba Construction, Absolute Auto Care, Gary Anderson, Jerry Aragenzio-West, Artbeads Company, Doug Austin, Laurie Austin, Avanti Salon, Keith Axelsen, Kathy Bauer, Phil Bauer, Bev Bier, Tom and Julie Boardman, Janet Botnen, Anna Brones, Edward Brown, Pam Buskirk, Christy Campbell, LMP, John Carlson, Debbi Carter, Capitol Lumber, Jeff Charboneau, Close to Home Espresso, Ellishia Countryman,

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Lastly — we are indebted to the many friends and volunteers who helped plan, organize and staff the event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Upcoming Events at the Civic Center

Blues & Brews Saturday, October 29

Winter Warm-up Saturday, November 12

Skate Night every Friday night 6-9 pm while school is in session

Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, through its facility and the efforts of its members, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community. The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

WHITMARSH FROM PAGE 7

correct in speaking loudly against injustice and being angry at the broken systems of our world. However, chances are you're not one of them. Stop playing the victim unless you truly are victim to broken and unjust systems.

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln was running for the U.S. Senate. Considering the precarious state of the nation, he gave a speech and quoted Jesus: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." It was called too radical at the time and offensive to some, and he lost that race. He lost for seeking unity.

It's time we grow up and grow together, seeking peace and understanding and compassion, and cease this bickering and bullying. It's time to lower our voices and listen to one another. It's time we ignore candidates who engage in name-calling and insults. We're better than that.

If we remain this divided, it won't matter who is elected. If we can't stand together, then we'll fall apart.

Dan Whitmarsh is the pastor at Lakebay Community Church.

Dale Goodvin

NEXT DIMENSION NOTES



The Hogs Are in the Parlor

Here in the Next Dimension, nothing is automatically accepted as truth, whatever its origin. In the very month we are asked to prove our patriotism by voting, my intention is to dismiss the common slogans and popular notions that scream at us daily about voting being the essential mark of good citizenship. Such a belief is far different from the original form of democracy, when the ancient Greeks (males only) voted by dropping pebbles into urns, and when it was required that all men participate in the political system and, if needed, give their lives in its defense.

In contrast, many people in this election season might very well agree with America's great 19th century political radical, Henry David Thoreau, who said, "All voting is a sort of gaming, like checkers or backgammon, with a slight moral tinge to it, a playing with right and wrong, with moral

The opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on these pages and present these views for public information only.

questions; and betting naturally accompanies it. The character of the voters is not staked... Even voting for the right is doing nothing for it. It is only expressing to men feebly your desire that it should prevail."

The political system in America is so broken that nearly 50 percent of our citizens choose not to vote at all, even in presidential elections.

From the Next Dimension, I encourage you to vote as an expression of your political inclinations, but please do not think that voting alone makes you a good and solid citizen. It is just a part of being a good citizen; a beginning at best, a charade at worse.

How simple is our current belief system: Vote and you are a good citizen, don't and you're a bum with zero rights to complain about the state of your nation or community. This concept declares that voting in and of itself, despite a voter's knowledge, or her or his actual involvement in the political world, is all it takes to be a good citizen.

We in the Next Dimension believe no such thing, as it does nothing to address why we have such a miserably low voter turnout and, even more, does nothing to create a political model that encourages us to become more involved and active in the political system itself.

Those already in power desperately want you to believe that your only responsibility as a good citizen is to vote in large part because they benefit from the status quo of anger and despair rampant these days. As Thoreau also said, "The hogs are in the parlor."

Those already in power want us to be satisfied or utterly befuddled by our chaos, suspicion and hatred. They want us to feel hopeless and weak. They have no interest at all in having citizens involved in the politics that shape our laws and our lives.

They want, more than anything, to stay in the parlor.

But in the Next Dimension, we will not ignore history. We will not forget that it was once legal to slaughter Native Americans when we invaded this land, or that it was once legal to own slaves, or that it was once legal to deny women a plethora of rights. We will also not forget that voting alone did not change these laws.

Please do vote, but know, too, that it is not enough. The citizens of the Next Dimension must develop a better political and cultural environment than we have now, and we must not shy away from difficult questions.

Yours in peace from the Next Dimension.
Dale Goodvin lives in Longbranch.

Rodika Tollefson

ONES AND ZEROS



What Pokémon GO Says About Us

Despite our rural remoteness, the Key didn't escape the Pokémon GO craze that swept the planet in July. As this augmented-reality (AR) mobile game was released around the world, its number of players quickly surpassed the number of daily Twitter users.

It became an obsession that crossed cultures and borders. A Norwegian lawmaker who was caught on video playing during a committee hearing proved just how universally appealing Pokémon GO is (as well as proving how universally boring politics can be).

Pokémon GO confirmed two things. One is that all it takes for people to collectively abandon their common sense is a shiny new widget. The second is something that marketers have known all along—committing to something for too long makes us fidgety.

Even if you don't know what Pokémon GO is, you've likely seen it in action. Notice people walking around the parking lot at Lake Kathryn or outside the Key Center Library, with their phones in front of their faces, staring intently at the screen? Yep, Pokémon GO.

Based on an original Nintendo video game from the 1990s, Pokémon are mythical creatures that human characters in the game can catch and train to battle against each other.

The AR version uses location-based technology and smartphone cameras to allow actual humans to "catch" the digital Pokémon in physical environments. Gamers, aka "trainers," can also get digital game goodies at specific real-world locations—typically local landmarks and public areas (i.e., the Wauna fire station, the library, the Vaughn post office).

Like rock music, teenage angst and Starbucks, Pokémon GO became a shared cultural experience around the world. Entire nations reacted—some decrying the game, others treating it like a matter of national security.

Medical professionals loved it: The app encouraged people to get off their couches and move around (phones in faces notwithstanding). Gamers also interacted with other "trainers" in person. Such a rare occurrence these days, it's no doubt good for mental health.

Some gamers, however, became so enthralled with catching Pokémon, they ignored their own safety.



Pokémon at the library. Screenshot: Darrin Tollefson

A few walked into traffic while playing. A couple walked off a cliff. Someone drove into a tree. The incidents were geographically neutral—like some strange United Nations of folly.

The game soon turned into an international economic engine. We can now eat Pokéburgers, hire personal guides and take bus tours. If that's too much work, we can visit the new dating site or skip right to the virtual reality porn parody.

Smart entrepreneurs rushed to cash in while they could. Because smart entrepreneurs know that many (most?) obsessions that start with a bang eventually fizzle.

Pokémon GO hasn't fizzled yet. But it's entering "meh" territory.

Blame it on the eight-second-attention span humans have (if we believe marketing research). Even goldfish beat that. By one whole second!

The challenge is not only that we have collective ADHD, thanks to the millions of hours of digital media entertainment competing for our brains and eyeballs, simultaneously, on multiple screens. The challenge is that there is so much attention-demanding content. Is that dress blue or yellow? Is Jon Snow alive? What did the latest (fill-in-the blank) quiz tell you about yourself?

It doesn't matter if Pokémon GO broke new ground with its augmented reality experience, or how different or innovative the game is, because our connected lives make it difficult for anything to sustain our attention for too long.

Our problem is that we get bored and move on as soon as something shinier comes along.

Especially if it's something that doesn't require getting off the couch. Or talking to another human in person.

Rodika Tollefson lives in that part of the KP the post office calls Gig Harbor.

Letters to the Editor

A Republican Ruminates

I have been a Republican all my life. I worked at a Reagan rally in Reno in the 1980s. My belief in the Republican Party is rooted in fiscal conservatism, personal responsibility and accountability, individual liberty and limited government.

Donald Trump is no Ronald Reagan. Continually saying how terrible things are, Mr. Trump is trying to echo Reagan's "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

- Unemployment in 2015 was 5 percent, down from a 9.9 percent high in 2009 and below the lowest unemployment rate, 5.7 percent, during Reagan's tenure.

- GDP growth for 2015 was 2.6 percent. In 2006, it was 2.7 percent.

- Manufacturing job openings average 353,000 per month, the highest in 15 years.

- Forty percent of the undocumented immigrants now in the U.S. entered legally and overstayed their visas. A wall would not have stopped them. More Mexicans now return home than stay in the U.S. each year.

- In 2002, gun manufacturers sold 7 million firearms. In 2013, they sold 15 million. The threat to the Second Amendment, real or contrived, is good for gun manufacturers.

- CDC statistics indicate the abortion rate in 2009 (the most recent data I could find) was 32 percent lower than in 1990, the lowest since they started keeping records in 1976.

Reagan had a coherent plan and vision for progress. Donald Trump does not. Until we, as Republicans, nominate a moderate candidate, we stand little chance of winning the White House, no matter how unappealing the opposition.

While Hillary Clinton has a very large and very public closet packed with skeletons, her voting record is surprisingly moderate. The policies she's advancing during the campaign are comprehensive and based in reality.

As my second-to-last choice in this election, I cannot ask others to vote for Hillary, but the stability she offers is infinitely preferable to the destructive chaos of who has become my last choice.

Good luck with your choice. Please don't make it ignorantly.

Mark Michel/Lakebay

In Support of Jesse Young

We have a bit of an identity crisis in Pierce County with the upcoming election. People are confusing two Youngs: Jesse and Derek. Jesse Young is running for re-election for state representative position 1 in the 26th Legislative District. Derek Young is our county council member for District 7.

Jesse Young is one of those rare elected representatives who comes from "we the people" and never forgets that. He is honest and straightforward, and upholds personal freedoms and individual rights. He has the personality and attitude to work with the other side to actually accomplish things, but never compromises what he believes or lets his vote be swayed by what might be popular in the media.

Here's where some of the confusion comes in: This summer, Derek Young proposed a shooting ban around Carney Lake on the Key Peninsula. He took the complaint from just one citizen (who did not reside in the proposed restricted area) who claimed bullets from somewhere had landed on his property. Without any site investigation, Derek proposed a 123-acre no-shooting zone surrounding Carney Lake. This was unnecessary, as there are already restrictions governing this area from Washington state and Pierce County.

Jesse Young took time out of his busy schedule to come and speak out against this proposed ban at a public meeting July 18.

This is one of the biggest differences between these two men—one wanting to put more useless restrictions on citizens and the other wanting to stop them.

So please remember this Nov. 8, the state representative who stands and works for you and me is Jesse Young.

Cecil Beal/Vaughn

Add to the News

Your Key Peninsula News depends on advertisers, supporters and volunteers. Help build a stronger community with your donation of time or money. Or both. Call 884-4699.

In Support of Randy Spitzer

I have known Randy Spitzer for many years. We've served on several boards together. What impresses me about Randy is his ability to quickly grasp issues, cut through rhetoric and propose innovative solutions to difficult problems. He is the kind of leader we need as our 26th Legislative District representative.

As a former educator, Randy understands the complexities of the McCleary decision, the inaction by our Legislature and the imposition of \$100,000 daily fines for their failure to fund K-12 education. He's committed to properly and fully funding our state education system and ending the excessive focus on standardized testing.

As a businessman and certified financial planner, Randy knows fiscal responsibility. He's for lowering property taxes for the middle class and seniors and eliminating loopholes in B & O taxes that allow entire industries to avoid paying taxes. He's committed to make the state's transportation department more efficient by streamlining purchases and operations. He knows long-term planning saves money.

We need a hard-working legislator dedicated to bringing legislators from both sides of the aisle together to pass sensible legislation that addresses the major issues affecting our state. That person is Randy Spitzer. He has my vote. I hope he has yours.

Al Abbott/Gig Harbor

In Support of Randy Spitzer

I have followed Randy Spitzer's journey to become our 26th Legislative District representative with great admiration and respect. I have long known Randy and his wife, Laurie, as fellow educators. Their careers have been long, laudable and committed to students, teachers and families. When I asked Randy to speak with our Kiwanis Club in Manchester, he willingly joined a full-fledged and honest discussion of issues and values. He had a clear vision for solving some of the current problems facing our state: compliance with the McCleary decision to fund education and fixing our tax system, which over-taxes seniors and the middle class. Randy talked about our failing infrastructure and the inability of legislators to collaborate across party lines. Randy's experience as a trusted business adviser and certified

financial planner are tools he will use wisely to solve these problems.

Party politics aside, I believe we need a moderate and knowledgeable voice in the Washington State Legislature. I am voting for Randy Spitzer, and I urge you to do the same.

Elizabeth Drew/Port Orchard

In Support of Randy Spitzer

On government spending and taxes, state Rep. Michelle Caldier doesn't understand her district's priorities. She's spent so much time in Olympia for special sessions that she hasn't had time to talk with the people she represents.

Rep. Caldier voted no on several bills while claiming she was protecting taxpayers, yet she has done nothing to fix our broken system. We have the most regressive tax structure of any state in our nation. Middle-class people and seniors in our area pay a tax rate five or six times higher than billionaires in our state do. We don't need Band-Aid fixes; we need tax reform that brings real tax fairness. It's time for a change. Voters would do well to support Randy Spitzer. He has faced hard times and pulled himself up with hard work. He understands small business and has advocated for a fiscally responsible approach to our state spending priorities. If we're going to move away from the Legislature's inaction, we need to elect Randy.

Roxanne Simon/Lakebay

Letters to the Editor

Opinions expressed

are those of the writers and do not necessarily

reflect the views of the publishers or staff. Letters

to the editor must be signed and include a

daytime phone number for verification. No

anonymous letters will be published. Letters are

used on a space-available basis and Key Penin-

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WA 98394, or email to news@keypennews.com.



Key Pen Parks
The key to your next adventure!

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www.keypenparks.com
253-884-9240

November 2016

Breakfast with Santa

December 3, 2016
Key Center Fire Station

Tell Santa all your holiday wishes at this festive event. Breakfast, crafts and more! Advance tickets are \$5 per person and are available through the Key Pen Parks website or in the office during regular business hours.

Seating times are 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 am
Tickets at the door will be \$10. Shop smart and get your tickets early!

2017 BUDGET MEETING
Key Pen Parks will hold a public meeting to discuss the 2017 revenue budget as required per State of Washington RCW 84.55.120 at 7:30 pm on Monday, Nov. 14, in the Volunteer Park office.

Did You know?
Key Pen Parks has a grant program! The Key Pen Parks Grant Program helps community groups improve park and recreation opportunities by supplying funds through requested grants.
Grant applications for 2017 will be available online on December 5, 2016 on our website: keypenparks.com, click "Park Business" and "Grant Program."
Applications for 2017 will be accepted January 6 through February 10, 2017.
Past grant recipients include:
• Key Peninsula Civic Center (tennis courts)
• Key Peninsula Community Services (S.A.I.L. Program)
• Key Peninsula Farm Tour
• Beyond the Borders
• Children's Home Society
• The Red Barn Youth Center

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids for the **Gateway Park** Phase 1 Improvements will be received by the Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (Key Pen Parks) until November 18, 2016, at 12 pm PST. At this time, the bids will be opened and read aloud.
More information on the project scope, the engineer's probable opinion of cost ranges, access to project bid documents, and where to direct bid document questions can be found on our website under the "Park Business" tab.

Key Pen Parks is accepting applications to run the concession stand at Volunteer Park.
For more info, visit our website: keypenparks.com

Are you a contractor, consultant, or vendor? If you are interested in doing business with Key Pen Parks, contact Scott at scottg@keypenparks.com.

Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community—One Year Out

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Partnership for a Healthy Community is nearly 1 year old, and co-directors Ben and Susan Paganelli are ready to build on the foundation that has been laid.

The partnership was established by a grant from the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation awarded to the KP Community Council. The goal was to support major, cooperative and sustainable community improvement and to focus on families in need. The grant also provided funding to meet immediate needs.

"We've been thinking about what makes a healthy community," Ben Paganelli said. "It is one that takes pride in helping itself, is connected, and defines itself by its strengths rather than by its needs."

Much of the work of the partnership has been to establish those connections and to make them sustainable.

A steering committee provided oversight, Paganelli said. Three working committees (hunger, transportation, and health and wellness) met to identify gaps and resources and to make recommendations for use of the grant funds for immediate needs.

The co-directors set up a website and a Facebook page. They identified more than 60 service organizations and businesses and met with at least three-quarters of them, creating a map of what assets they provide. They held community forums to get input from local residents about what they value now and what they think will be important in the future. They used that information to produce a survey distributed through the website and at various locations in the area.

The working committees disbursed \$30,000 in immediate-need funding for initiatives such as providing prescription medicine subsidies and setting up a medical supply and vaccination fund; subsidizing field trips for Evergreen Elementary School and increasing the KP Bus Connects summer schedule; providing food vouchers to Backpacks 4 Kids and supplementing the local food banks, Communities In Schools of Peninsula and the Red Barn Youth Center.

As the partnership became more visible, leaders and organizations offered more help, Paganelli said. The working committees



discovered ways to share resources and to maximize efficiencies:

- KP School Bus Connects expanded its schedule, which in turn enabled a new CISP summer youth program at Key Peninsula Middle School and increased participation numbers at the Red Barn.
- At a Hunger Committee meeting, one group mentioned they had access to an underutilized refrigeration van, making it available to another food bank organization. During another meeting, one committee member helped another source more affordable supplies through group purchasing power.
- At a Health and Wellness Committee meeting, Crossroads Treatment Center of Lakewood offered free drug and alcohol screening for the Key Free Clinic.
- Camp Seymour partnered with the Red Barn to supply healthy food for the after-school snacks Red Barn offers.
- Realtors in Gig Harbor Rotary offered furniture from homes that had been staged for use. CISP then worked with the NW Furniture Bank to take the furniture and offer CISP clients vouchers for it when needed. The realtors found a use for unwanted furniture and CISP did not have to store it.

"I see the partnership as being the connector—the 'if' for the community," Paganelli said. "It begins to change the paradigm. Rather than saying 'I need,' an organization says, 'I can do X if I have Y.' We help find the Y to make X happen."

The partnership is applying for a renewal of the Milgard grant, which was originally planned as a multi-year program. The partnership expects to have an action plan based on the past year's results and research by December.

For more information, go to kphhealthy-community.org.



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The Wauna post office is going the last mile for Amazon. Photo: Lisa Bryan, KP News

Wauna Post Office Delivers Seven Days a Week

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

The Wauna post office is one of numerous branches nationwide delivering packages on Sundays exclusively for Seattle-based online retailer Amazon as part of a five-year pilot program to increase revenue for the United States Postal Service.

"Amazon wants delivery seven days a week, so the Postal Service is happy to accommodate them on Sundays and holidays," said Ernie Swanson, USPS corporate media regional spokesperson. "We're grateful to have that added parcel volume. It's very important business for us."

Sunday Amazon deliveries are not made by unionized career postal carriers, but are delivered by newly hired city carrier assistants (CCAs) or rural carrier assistants (RCAs) who are paid less and have fewer benefits than career postal workers. While some may see this as a bad thing, the USPS decision to hire CCA employees was made pursuant to an agreement with the National Association of Letter Carriers.

It wasn't long ago that USPS considered discontinuing Saturday mail delivery because of billions of dollars in annual budget deficits. Once the mainstay of Postal Service revenue, first-class mail continues to decline because of online banking, paperless billing and the growing use of emerging communication technologies.

"Our parcel volume, not just from Amazon, is up in general, which is really helping keep us afloat," Swanson said.

With highly automated systems and vastly

improved technology, including GPS location tracking, USPS can quickly provide detailed tracking information, delivery confirmation and location data on most parcels. USPS is continuing to transform to capture more of the increased volume of parcels due partly to the overall expansion of e-commerce, Swanson said.

All Key Peninsula post offices participate in the last-mile delivery program, in which smaller parcels originally shipped by vendors via UPS and FedEx are dropped off early each morning and sorted to go out with USPS carriers for final delivery to customers on their daily runs. Only Wauna is delivering on Sundays for the present.

"On very rare occasions, an address without a mailbox can present difficulties in some locations," Swanson said. "USPS takes customer service very seriously and each parcel is important. We make every attempt to get the parcels to our customers. The Wauna postmaster, Shima Garrison, confirmed they receive roughly 500 to 600 parcels per day and probably half of them are last-mile delivery packages. She indicated she receives very few complaints from customers," Swanson said.

Editor's note: USPS permits only its designated spokespersons to speak with the press. Local postal workers could not be interviewed for this article.

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SWIM!

COMMUNITY SWIM PROGRAM

Easterseals Washington Camp Stand By Me, 17809 South Vaughn Road KPN, has recently completed all of the indoor swimming pool renovations and reopened. All sessions are by registration only, no drop-ins. Sign up by calling the office at 884-2722 or stop by between 6:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (M-F).

NOV. 1

PET NEUTER PROGRAM

The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center animal shuttle will be at the KP Civic Center 7 to 7:30 a.m. to pick up dogs and cats. Animals will be returned to the civic center at 9 a.m. the next day. Appointments are required. Call 253-627-7729 ext. 217, or email shuttle@nwspayneuter.org for questions or to schedule an appointment. The Northwest Spay and Neuter Center offers affordable spay and neuter services for cats and dogs, including special programs for feral cats and pit bull dogs. nwspayneuter.org

PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL ON KP

The Pierce County Council will have its November meeting in District 7 at the KP Civic Center, at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity for Key Pen citizens to address the county council directly. 800-992-2456

NOV. 1 & 15

SENIOR SHOPPING

Seniors have an opportunity to grocery shop at various stores. "Dutch" lunch. Transportation is provided. 884-4440

NOV. 2

FUCHSIA GROUP

The Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. in the KP Civic Center Whitmore Room.

NOV. 3, 10 & 17

CAT TALES

Cat Tales holds its regular club meetings 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the VFW Room at the KP Civic Center. 884-4182

NOV. 4, 11 & 18

SKATE NIGHT

Skate Night at the KP Civic Center is 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$5. 884-3456

NOV. 5 & 15

TECH HELP

Meet with a librarian to receive personal help by registering for an appointment online at getsmart.pcls.us or calling 253-548-3309. Nov. 5 appointments are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Nov. 15 appointments are 2 to 4 p.m.

NOV. 5 & 19

SUPPORT GROUP

The Lakebay Depression and Bipolar Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN. Contact Kimberly at 253-4270 or DBSALakebay@gmail.com.

NOV. 7, 14 & 21

QUILTERS MEET

Key Peninsula Quilters meets 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library. This is an open group to work with others or one's own projects, by hand or machine, including quilting, embroidery, general sewing, knitting and crocheting. Come for the whole time or drop in to work for a while.

NOV. 7, 14, 21 & 28

BLOODMOBILE

The bloodmobile is at Albertsons 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NOV. 7 TO DEC. 15

TOYS FOR TOTS

Donate unwrapped toys for children of all ages in the drop-off box at New Beginnings Real Estate in the Key Center Landing building, 15510 92nd St. KPN, Suite E. Drop-off times are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 514-0659

NOV. 8

CROCHET OR KNIT

The Loving Hearts group meets 1 to 3 p.m. at WayPoint Church. Yarn donations are always needed. lovingheartsonkp@gmail.com or Virginia, 884-9619

NOV. 9

ASHES MEET

The Ashes support group for FD 16 meets 10:30 a.m. at the fire station in Key Center. 884-3771

GARDEN CLUB MEETS

The Bayshore Garden Club meets 11 a.m. at the Longbranch fire station. Wendy, 332-4883

KP COUNCIL

Meeting 7 p.m. at the KC fire station. New directors will be elected for the 2017-2019 term.

NOV. 12

WINTER WARM-UP

The 9th annual Winter Warm-up Holiday Crafts Fair & Chili Competition is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at KP Civic Center. Registration is open for crafters and chili competitors at www.kpciviccenter.org or 884-3456.

KPHS OPEN HOUSE

The KP Historical Museum holds an open house 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. remembering Thanksgiving and harvest time celebrations by early settlers. Activities for children include making turkeys, carding wool and writing with a quill pen and ink. A variety of books and other gift items are available for sale. 888-3246

HOLIDAY CRAFTS

All ages may participate in the second Saturday event making holiday crafts at 2 p.m. at the KC Library. All young children must be accompanied by an adult. 548-3309

NOV. 14

LEGO FUN

Kids 8 to 18 build and program a robot using Lego Mindstorm kits 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. Maximum of 25 allowed. Registration required: piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. Register four at a time. 548-3309

NOV. 17

COMMUNITY FORUM

The Mustard Seed's Third Thursday Community Forum is 10 a.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-9814

BOOK DISCUSSION

Friends of the Key Center Library sponsor a discussion of "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel at 11 a.m. at the KC Library. Ask for a copy of the book at the help desk. 548-3309

NOV. 19

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Evergreen Elementary, 1820 Key Peninsula Highway S, holds a holiday bazaar in the gym 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Evergreen is accepting applications from vendors and crafters

for spaces (8x8/\$30) and limited tables (\$5). All proceeds from the bazaar benefit the Evergreen students through the STEAM education program. Contact evergreenholidaybazaar@gmail.com or Kim, 230-3052.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

The Alzheimer's Association family caregiver support group meets 10:30 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of each month at The Mustard Seed Project in the Key Center Corral (9013 Key Peninsula Hwy. N, #D). This group provides a consistent, caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others on the unique journey of providing support to a person with memory loss. Contact Ray Steiner, 253-820-2213.

KORA MUSIC

Sean Gaskell will give a performance and educational demonstration on the Kora, an ancient 21-stringed harp from West Africa, 2 p.m. at the KC Library. He will feature traditional songs that are the heart and soul of the Kora's musical repertoire in addition to some of his own compositions.

NOV. 20

SUNDAY BLUEGRASS JAM

Bluegrass Gospel Jam session held at Longbranch Church (16518 46th Street KPS) 6 to 8:30 p.m. for all acoustic instruments, ages and skill levels. Everyone is welcome to play, sing or simply listen. Bring music stand and finger food to share; music and beverages are provided.

NOV. 21

LEAF ART

Ages 3 and up make fall art using leaves 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the KC Library. All supplies are provided. Maximum of 30 children allowed. Registration required: piercecountylibrary.org/calendar. Register six at a time. 548-3309

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OFF THE KEY

NOV. 1 TO 18

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital Peninsula Guild's annual holiday sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at 6490 Kimball Drive, directly across the street from the Thrift Shop. Proceeds benefit Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma. 857-2212

NOV. 2

DEMOCRATS MEET

26th Legislative District Democrats meet 7 to 9 p.m. at Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Rd, Port Orchard.

NOV. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

SUPPORT GROUP

The Freedom from Tobacco Support Group meets Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Hospital. The meetings are free. 223-7538

NOV. 8 TO DEC. 10

PLAY PRESENTED

Paradise Theatre presents "A Christmas Story" on weekends at 3114 Judson Street in Gig Harbor. Times are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays. paradisetheatre.org or 851-7529

NOV. 12

CONCERT HELD

The Olalla Community Club, 12970 Olalla Valley Road, presents a concert featuring Scott Mickelson. A potluck starts at 6 p.m. and the concert is at 7 p.m. Potluck host is Nolan Pepperdine, 253-439-0078. Cost is \$15-\$20. olallahouse.com

NOV. 26 & 27

WINTERFEST

Peninsula High School's annual Winterfest Arts and Crafts Fair featuring hundreds of craft vendors is Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Food Fair hosted by students of PHS is also open. Admission is \$5.

WEEKLYEVENTS

MONDAYS

Play to Learn, provided by Children's Museum of Tacoma, is Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 14 and 28 and Dec. 5 at 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center. This is a free drop-in program for preschoolers under 6 and their adult caregivers.

MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, FRIDAYS

The S.A.I.L.L. senior exercise class meets 10 to 11 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. Participants must register with Marilyn Perks at 884-4440.

TUESDAYS

Senior tai chi meets 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at KP Community Services in Lakebay. 884-4440

STORY TIMES

Every Tuesday, discover books, learn nursery rhymes, sing songs, play with blocks and do arts and crafts at the KC Library. Music/Motion Story time (0-2 years old with an adult) is at 10 a.m. and Preschool Science Story time (2-5 years old) is at 11 a.m. 548-3309

KEY SINGERS

Key Singers rehearse Christmas music 7 p.m. at KP Lutheran Church, 3312 Lackey Rd KPN. All voice ranges welcome. Membership fee of \$10 pays for rent, music and scholarship. 884-5615

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

PRESCHOOL PLAY TIME

The Children's Home Society/Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the KP Civic Center gym. Caregivers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay as long as you wish. A \$1/child donation is suggested. Tami, 884-5433

TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS

VISIT THE MUSEUM

The KP Historical Museum has displays of historic hotels and resorts of the Key Peninsula, a display of local veterans and many artifacts. Open 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free; monetary donations welcome. 888-3246

WEDNESDAYS

WRITERS MEET

Lakebay Writers is a workshop for people who love stories. Share yours. Hear others. 1 to 4 p.m. at the KC Library. Loren Aikins, 884-2785

WRITERS WORKSHOP

The Watermark Writers present a free writers workshop 5 to 8 p.m. in Vaughn. 778-6559

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

SENIOR MEALS

Nutritious meals for ages 60+ are served at noon at KP Community Services; a \$2 donation is requested. Guests (ages 50-59) of senior attendees are requested to donate \$2.50. 884-4440

THURSDAYS

TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters meet 8 to 9 a.m. at the KC Library. Have fun improving your speaking ability. 858-5761 or 548-3511

SENIORS LUNCH

The KP Senior Society meets at 11 a.m. for a potluck, games and fellowship in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4440

FRIDAYS

STORY TIME

Families with young children enjoy stories 1:30 to 2 p.m. at the KC Library. 548-3309

SATURDAYS

WRITERS GUILD

The Writers Guild meets the first and third Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon at the KC Library. 884-6455

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Nov. 1, Artists Blend, 4 to 6 p.m., Blend Wine Shop, for all artists; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Nov. 2 & 16, KP Lions, 7 p.m., KC fire station; 853-2721

Nov. 2 & 16, KP Veterans, 7 p.m., KP Lutheran Church; membership for veterans and military service members and families over 16 yrs. 509-8656 or keypenveterans@outlook.com

Nov. 8 & 22, KP Fire Dept., 5 p.m., KC fire station; keypeninsulafire.org

Nov. 7, McNeil Island meeting, 6 p.m., Lakebay Marina. Discussion about turning McNeil Island into a park. markscott@lakebaymarina.com

Nov. 9, KP Community Council, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Nov. 10, Peninsula School District Board, 6 p.m., Goodman Middle School Library

Nov. 10, KP Civic Center Assn. Board, 7 p.m., Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center; 884-3456

Nov. 10, TWAA Board, 7 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; kathybauer100@gmail.com

Nov. 14, KP Parks, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park office; public is encouraged to attend. 884-9240

Nov. 16, Longbranch Improvement Club, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. meeting, LIC; 884-6022

Nov. 16/third Wednesday, KP Advisory Commission hosts Councilman Derek Young, who will speak about setting priorities for the Pierce Co. budget, 6:30 p.m., VFW Room, KP Civic Center; Toni Fairbanks, 253-798-7156

Nov. 17, KP Citizens Against Crime, 7 p.m., KC fire station

Nov. 21, KP Democrats, 7 p.m., Home fire station; johnpatkelly@aol.com

Nov. 28, KP Farm Council, 6:30 p.m., Home fire station; c.wiley@mac.com



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Submit your calendar items to connierenz@hotmail.com before the 15th



Superintendent Rob Manahan spent the first day of school this year in kindergarten. Photo: Kathy Weymiller, Peninsula School District

Superintendent Rob Manahan Reflects on New Job

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Rob Manahan, Peninsula School District's new superintendent, has had a busy few months. He officially started work in July, but has spent time getting to know the district and meeting with staff and community members since April. He reflected on his experience during an interview with the KP News in October.

Manahan's first two months were dominated by meetings with community members and groups who wanted to get to know him. He's been thrilled at the level of support they have expressed for the schools.

With the start of the school year, he has met regularly with PTAs from all of the schools and he plans to have informal neighborhood meetings as well.

In early meetings with staff at all levels, Manahan understood they suffered from "initiative fatigue." The steady demand of initiatives from the state and from the local district had taken a toll.

He made the decision that there will be no new initiatives this year. Over the course of the last few months, he has worked with the staff to develop a framing model, the Pillars of Success, to help get a handle on the current initiatives. "If you understand the 'why,' it is easier to get to the 'how,'" he said.

Manahan explained the model: "First, we have the foundation, with the core understanding that all members of our school community, from students to parents to staff to administration, are respected, loved, valued, and are seen as capable and belonging."

On top of that is the floor, based on collaboration. "We need to tap into the wisdom in the room," he said. "Both from teacher to

teacher as they work together, but also from our schools to our parents and community. "At the top is the roof or outcome: All students graduate capable and able to take advantage of all of life's opportunities," he said. "Every student should be career-, college- and life-ready for a four-year college, a technical career or an entrepreneurial endeavor." Holding up that roof are two pillars: engagement and assessment.

"Engaging students means that we know where they are academically," Manahan said. "We need to reach them at an appropriate level, not too high or too low. And that is where assessment comes in.

"Assessment is more than an end-of-the-year snapshot-in-time test, but should be designed to inform our work with our students—whether that be support through interventions or extended opportunities of enrichment," he said.

Manahan feels strongly that each school should have the freedom to use the wisdom and experience of the local staff and parents to decide how to shape its programs, using the model he described as a framework.

Manahan has distributed a survey to parents, PTA groups and community members soliciting opinions, questions and ideas for the school district. Once responses are collated, everyone participating will be invited to evaluate the results.

Manahan and his wife are settling into a new home and, although he doesn't have much free time during the week, he is happy to be back in the district where he started teaching. After six years as superintendent of the Lake Chelan School District, Manahan is excited to lead a larger district and to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

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County Council Member Talks Budget and More at KPAC

MATTHEW DEAN, KP NEWS

Pierce County Councilman Derek Young (D-7th) met with the Key Peninsula Advisory Commission Oct. 20 to discuss issues affecting KP residents.

Young, elected to the county council in 2014, began the meeting by expressing his appreciation for KPAC and emphasizing the importance of local-level communication.

KPAC, a group of selected KP representatives, meets on the third Wednesday of each month to discuss land-use issues and make recommendations to Pierce County based on the needs of the peninsula.

Young's first topic in the meeting was the difficulties of policing on the KP. Many complaints about response time and infrequent patrolling can be attributed to the lack of personnel, according to Young.

"The sheriff just completed his staffing study," he said. "He's about 70 people down, and that's a huge deficit." Young pointed to the Great Recession's aftereffects and faulty county tax structures as the main reasons for the department's staffing problems.

Despite these difficulties, Young emphasized that law enforcement officers have been finding success locally with the newly established Property Crimes Unit, which has a specific focus on the damage and theft infractions most common to the Key Peninsula. Young also suggested that some budgetary issues might be solved by the influx of cannabis revenue the state will see over the next few years.

Budget and tax problems were another recurring theme of the night's discussion. Chuck West, chair of the Key Peninsula Community Council, presented a sheet of statistics showing the flow of tax money to and from the Key Peninsula. West's main takeaway from this information was an apparent gap between the taxes paid by the Key Peninsula and the services received in return.

"We're paying a million dollars a year for that little library in Key Center... and half of that goes somewhere else, and we need that," he said. "Public Works takes a lot of excess money from the Key Peninsula also." West also pointed to gaps in surface-water management and public transit.

Young addressed each aspect of the tax gaps individually, offering explanations for some and potential solutions for others. He was responsive on some issues like transit and road maintenance, pointing to the Purdy

Spit and the Lackey Road intersection as high priorities for repair and new construction. As for other subjects, like Flood Zone Management tax money, the overwhelming majority of which is used off the KP, Young didn't see much potential for change.

"Unfortunately, we're sort of at a strategic disadvantage, because it's really just me and Doug Richardson who are in districts that are losing here," he said. Young did offer some answers in the form of local culverts and drains that could be repaired using water-management money that is often sent off the KP.

The meeting also included several other topics such as timed bridge tolls, the responsiveness of the police nonemergency line, and fraud and waste in county government.

Young also emphasized the poor state of Pierce County's mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, stating that, "(Washington state) is 47th in the nation in beds per capita...and Pierce County is dead last."

Young expressed his support for the Red Barn Youth Center and said that he hopes to find additional funding for the facility. "It's not only a great, safe place for kids to go, but also a first place to see if there are any problems," he said, referring to his earlier statements on mental health.

Aquaculture and the environmental impact of new shellfish farms also took up part of the discussion.

The Pierce County Council will hold its next meeting at the KP Civic Center Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity for KP citizens to address the county council directly. Each member of the council holds at least one in-district meeting per year in order to ensure meetings are more accessible to residents of Pierce County.

Reach Councilman Derek Young at www.co.pierce.wa.us or 253-798-6654.

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Lakebay Rape Suspect Pleads Guilty

STAFF REPORT

Seventeen-year-old Morgan James Cayo of Lakebay pleaded guilty as an adult in Pierce County Superior Court Sept. 28 to one count of third-degree rape and two counts of second-degree assault for his role in the March 14 sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl in a shed on her family's property in Lakebay. He turned 18 years old Oct. 1.

Cayo will be sentenced Nov. 4. Third-degree rape is punishable by up to five years in prison. Second-degree assault is punishable by up to one year in prison. He remains in Pierce County jail.

According to charging documents, two other boys, 15 and 13, each face one count of second-degree rape and second-degree assault, and a 17-year-old boy faces a charge of unlawful imprisonment.

The victim was found half-conscious and severely injured. She had been sexually assaulted and repeatedly burned with a lighter. The teens had been drinking vodka together when the girl passed out and was attacked.

The assailants recorded the attack and posted it on Snapchat, an application that deletes images seconds after they are opened. Detectives were able to recover the files.



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Camp Stand By Me Pool Reopened

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

The swimming pool at Camp Stand By Me, closed for nearly a year, is open again with many improvements. Most are out of sight but important, said camp Director Joshua Mayer.

Filters were replaced, new heaters were added, ventilation has been improved in the pool and locker rooms, and both pool and spa were resurfaced.

The pool drain was replaced with three new drains, including covers to spread the force out over a larger area.

A new dechlorination tank is much more efficient in removing chlorine from the water. "In many respects, the environmental footprint is a lot smaller," Mayer said.

The camp was also able to hire two lifeguards and an aquatic director.

Open swims and aerobic swims occur every weekday. Lap swim is Tuesday at 6 p.m. and family swims are Wednesday at 6 p.m.

"We're really excited to have the pool open again," Mayer said. "We hope to expand with more aerobic swims and parent/child swims."

For more information, call 884-2722.

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Annual Meeting and Election of Officers November 10

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association announces its annual election of officers and board November 10, 2016. The public, as always, is invited to attend. Those interested in nominating individuals to serve should contact Phil Bauer at 253-884-3456 or kpciviccenter@centurytel.net

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Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 S. Vaughn Road 253/884-3456 www.kpciviccenter.org The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, through its facility and the efforts of its members, fosters and promotes the civic, social, cultural and general well-being of the Key Peninsula community. The Key Peninsula Civic Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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Rain gardens are an attractive and cost-effective way to treat and manage stormwater.

Photo: Edie Jeffers

Rain and Runoff

THE SHELLFISH PARTNERS, SPECIAL TO KP NEWS

Around here, rain happens—a lot. But did you know that how you manage stormwater runoff on your property could make your life easier, your animals healthier and the streams that feed Puget Sound cleaner? With a few simple steps, you can improve muddy paddocks, wet basements, soggy garages, overflowing culverts, eroding ditches and mushy lawns.

The first step is to absorb as much rain as possible. Trees are ideal. A mature tree can absorb 36 percent of the rainfall it comes in contact with. Plants and shrubs can increase the rain absorption rate even more. Mature forests have surprisingly little runoff, even in very rainy areas.

Another option is to send excess runoff into the ground. Dry wells and rain gardens can help. A dry well often drains to a large pit in the ground, which is filled with gravel. A rain garden is a low spot in your landscape designed to catch stormwater and filter out pollution.

Plants absorb water, slow down flow and filter pollutants. Lawns and ivy are the exception to this rule. Ivy doesn't have the erosion-prevention attributes of other plants. You can look beneath ivy and often find an eroding slope. Manicured turf does not infiltrate as much runoff as plants and trees, and maintenance practices can exacerbate problems. Typical lawn care practices include blanketing large areas with chemicals and adding even more water to those surfaces. Since lawns are attractive places for dogs and Canada geese to defecate, that extra runoff can carry a lot of bacteria.

Paved surfaces are a challenge because rain runs off quickly, hitting ditches and streams all at once, overwhelming them and causing erosion. Pavement can also carry motor oil and other pollutants. If you have pavement, put some thought into directing runoff carefully, away from foundations, garages, septic system drain fields, animal-keeping areas and exposed earth. If you can, direct your runoff through a vegetated area to slow and filter it before it leaves your property. Remember that runoff from your property can cause damage to neighbors' yards or pollute roadside ditches or streams. If this happens, you are responsible for damages and resulting pollution.

Exposed dirt can cause its own set of problems. Runoff picks up loose soil and carries it away. This is often topsoil that you want to keep. Place gravel or rock over high-traffic areas and plant grass or hardy groundcover over lighter-use areas.

Finally, if you need to install culverts under driveways, size them generously. A large storm can cause water to back up behind a small pipe and wash it out. This can cut off access to your home and cause problems for properties downstream.

Want help—for free? Schedule a courtesy inspection with Pierce County Public Works staff for technical support on drainage problems: 798-2725. If you have animals, the Pierce Conservation District can recommend management practices to control mud and keep your animals healthy: 845-9770.

The Shellfish Partners have been at work to protect Key Peninsula's beaches and shellfish resources since 2006. Made up of Pierce County Public Works, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, community organizations and Key Peninsula residents. To learn more or to get involved, call 798-6470 or visit www.tpcbd.org/shellfish.



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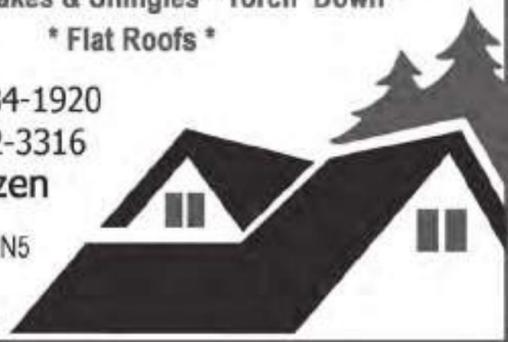
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Albert Sorenson, the first rural route carrier for Lakebay in 1909. Courtesy: KP Historical Society

The Key Peninsula's Peculiar Postal History

LISA BRYAN, KP NEWS

Physical addresses and postal confusion have been troublesome on the Key Peninsula for years. The Lakebay post office, 98349, is located in the unincorporated town of Home. The Vaughn post office, 98394, is located in Key Center, virtually surrounded by businesses with mailing addresses of Lakebay 98349. The vast majority of Wauna residents have a Gig Harbor address despite the existence of the Wauna post office, 98395. Finally, far-flung Longbranch, with no post office at all, proudly retains both its historic name and ZIP code of 98351.

To understand addresses on the Key Peninsula requires a look into the history of its settlement by men equipped with surveyor rods and chains. Mail was vital to early settlers. Postal sorting and storing were first done on boats, in private homes and inside general stores as each settlement sought to establish postal service.

The Lakebay Post Office

Originally operating out of Henry Tiedman's home 100 yards south of the Lakebay dock, "Lake Bay, Wash" became the first official U.S. post office on the Key Peninsula in 1882. The name was later shortened to "Lakebay." By 1894, mail arrived by steamer from Tacoma. In April 1909, the Lakebay RFD (Rural Free Delivery) service was established. Mail was carried by horse and buggy over a distance of 26 miles.

By 1958, the Lakebay post office was moved to Home, just northwest of the Home Bridge on Von Geldern Cove to provide greater accessibility and more space. The only caveat was that the post office retain its Lakebay name.

The Home Post Office

There are various accounts of the short-lived Home post office. Most attributed the abrupt closure of the post office to the activities of the Home colonists. The Home Colony, as it was first known, was considered a radical socialist settlement sowing seeds of discontent with numerous publications on the politics of the day, labor struggles, women's rights, religious commentary, sexual matters and birth control. The political climate following the assassination of President McKinley Sept. 6, 1901, by a sworn anarchist, coupled with complaints about the Home post mistress (who was accused of distributing lewd publications), led to the permanent closure of the Home post office by April 1902. Mail service was absorbed by Lakebay, a mere 2 miles south on Mayo Cove.

The Vaughn Post Office

The early Vaughn postmasters were storekeepers using space within their stores on Vaughn Bay for postal business starting in 1888. In the earliest days, Vaughn mail was transported by horseback to and from the Elgin post office (originally Minter), but later steamers traveled from Tacoma to Vaughn several times each week. Low tides often prevented the steamers from reaching the dock, so the young Nellie Van Slyke assisted her postmaster father Alfred by rowing out past the sand spit through strong currents to carry mail to and from the boats. By 1954, the Vaughn post office was promoted to third class, a distinction based on the amount of money earned at post offices around the county. The Vaughn post office relocated to Key Center in 2001.

The Wauna Post Office

Originally the "Springfield P.O.," established in 1890, the office was later moved and renamed the Wauna P.O. in 1906. It was housed in the general store built on the Key Peninsula side of the Purdy Spit in 1905 by Mrs. Mary Frances White and her husband, William, who also operated the nearby Wauna Lodge. The post office functioned in the same location under three generations of White family postmasters until at least 1974. By 1982, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Despite an impassioned effort to save the historic structure, the building was removed from the National Register and demolished in 2006. The current Wauna post office was built in 1990 at Lake Kathryn Village.

The Longbranch Post Office

Mail was first sorted on Ernest Shellgren's boat, the Monte Cristo, moored on Filucy Bay in 1891. Four years later, the operation was moved to Shellgren's store near the site of the current Longbranch wharf. By 1960, Miss Ellen Shellgren retired as the longest-serving postmaster in the state and the post office was converted to a rural station of Lakebay in 1965. None of the original buildings survived. The Longbranch Mercantile, which served as the last outgoing postal drop in Longbranch, was demolished in 2007.

Historical Attempts at Name Change

Numerous documented attempts to change the name of the Lakebay post office to Home, the unincorporated town in which it resides, all ended in failure. Nearing the centennial celebration of the Lakebay post office in 1982, a fierce battle, worthy of coverage in multiple newspapers, was waged between petitioners from Home vs. defenders of Lakebay over a requested name change. Letters to the editor and high-ranking politicians were filled with passionate arguments for and against. Notable pioneer family names appeared on petitions and in correspondence representing both sides.

Ultimately, it was the "Postal Service area" argument that trumped physical location, which explains why the post office in Home remains the Lakebay post office today, serving the communities of Longbranch, Lakebay, Herron Island, Home and northward into Key Center toward Glencove.

Editor's note: Special thanks to Judy Mills and the KP Historical Society for assistance researching this article.

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Coop on his new ride. *Courtesy Larry Cooper*

fused at the knee. "It doesn't bend," he said.

Cooper had heard about the Trac Fab power chair and applied to the Hotes Foundation. He saw an opportunity to get outdoors again. He was chosen because he met the criteria: "100 percent disabled, a service-connected injury, service in Vietnam. They vet carefully, using documented, verifiable evidence," he said.

When the chair was delivered in September, "it gave me a grin from ear to ear," Cooper said. "It is so important for mobility. The tracks will let me do something construc-

ive; to participate and not be isolated. I want to enjoy my property." He had a vision of working on his place and landscaping, but his shop was burglarized earlier this summer. Thieves stole all of his power tools, electric screwdrivers, staple gun, nail guns and a 100-pound winch.

Not discouraged, Cooper said, "I use the tools the VA gave me to deal with it, taking the negative and turning it into a positive. When I was in the hospital, I was an advocate for other hospitalized veterans. I want them to know there are resources to help them overcome their adversity."

Cooper suffers from severe and chronic post-traumatic stress disorder, which he said is prevalent in former service members. "Twenty veterans every day commit suicide," he said.

Born in the U.S. of Canadian parents, Cooper said he was raised to give back to his country without depending on the government. But he said he would stand up for the rights he earned and wants to help other veterans get the help they need. "Don't let pride be confused with stubborn," he said. "These are benefits to improve the quality of life."

Cooper's wife, Carolyn, said his experience in the VA Hospital was "a huge eye opener. Don't give up," she said.

Cooper qualified for a home improvements and structural alterations grant for injured service members to remodel his bathroom to make it handicap accessible. The VA also installed a wheelchair ramp entry to his waterfront deck in Lakebay on Carr Inlet, across from Kopachuck State Park. "It's an uphill battle. Reaching out allows me to do some things I could not otherwise do," he said.

Cooper qualified for a home improvements and structural alterations grant for injured service members to remodel his bathroom to make it handicap accessible. The VA also installed a wheelchair ramp entry to his waterfront deck in Lakebay on Carr Inlet, across from Kopachuck State Park. "It's an uphill battle. Reaching out allows me to do some things I could not otherwise do," he said.

KP Veteran Receives Tracked Wheelchair

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

One of 100 tracked wheelchairs donated by the Hotes Foundation found a home on the Key Peninsula with disabled veteran Larry "Coop" Cooper in September.

Cooper was in the Air Force working as a crash rescue firefighter in Pleiku, Vietnam, in 1970 when he was 19. He was fighting a fire caused by a mortar round hitting a carbon dioxide cylinder. He said he didn't know what hit him, but he was suddenly blown backward. He regained his composure and continued fighting the fire.

Doctors later discovered Cooper's lower back had been crushed, and they offered him a medical discharge. He declined and took a transfer to the information field at Itazuke Air Force Base in Japan. He served there for a year, working as a radio broadcaster before he transferred to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina.

Cooper has always been a singer, songwriter and musician. He worked a little as an actor. He owned a real estate company in Bellingham and a log-home building business in Des Moines. He has undergone 20 surgeries, including six on his leg and a dozen on his spine. His right leg has extensive nerve damage. He finally accepted permanent disability status in 1995, retroactive to 1992.

Last year, his leg became infected and the infection spread throughout his body. "For eight months, I was always recovering, never healing," he said. "They wanted to amputate the leg. They were fighting to save my life." The doctors saved his leg, now



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Bruce Dammeier (R) is running for Pierce County executive. *Courtesy Bruce Dammeier*

Bruce Dammeier

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

Former state Sen. Bruce Dammeier (R) of Puyallup is in the race for Pierce County executive.

"The Key Peninsula is a very special place with a ton of culture, unique to itself," he said. "When the country was hit by the recession, the KP recovered much more slowly. It's the farthest out, the most disenfranchised."

Inspired by his parents, who had strong expectations for him to give back to the community, Dammeier served on the Puyallup School Board for eight years. If elected, he would be the first Pierce County executive without a Tacoma address.

"The seed of this job was planted four

years ago when a senior executive with the county was requiring an engineering firm to pay for an attorney where the county was being sued," Dammeier said. "I found them abusive and arrogant, not fair and honest. The county needs a culture change. It has become bureaucratic and non-responsive. It has lost its way. It's time to shake the tree and help it remember who it serves. I want to restore a culture that we can be proud of."

A Pierce County native and U.S. Navy veteran, Dammeier said he has an understanding of the military, the huge veteran population and the concept of service. He said he is a proven leader.

Dammeier's family has been in the printing business in Pierce County since 1934. "I know what it takes to hire, to run a business in the private sector," he said. "Creating new family-wage jobs has got to be the top priority."

Dammeier served in the state Legislature as a Republican. "Even in Olympia I have proven my ability to bring people together across party lines to solve really difficult problems—to get to 'yes,'" he said. "I collaborated and negotiated strong bipartisan budgets. I get things done."

Dammeier said he is aware of some issues important to the Key Peninsula, and that he is "going to work very hard on their behalf." He listed local priorities as including economic prosperity; finding innovative ways to deliver county services back to the community, especially stronger crime prevention and law enforcement; and addressing chemical dependency, mental health and homelessness on the KP.



Pierce County Councilman Rick Talbert (D-5th) is running for Pierce County executive. *Courtesy Rick Talbert*

Rick Talbert

IRENE TORRES, KP NEWS

"I'd always been interested in government classes, civics," said Rick Talbert, candidate for Pierce County executive. "I volunteered and worked in community politics to find ways to accomplish things." He said his knowledge of Pierce County and strong relationships makes serving in this office a "perfect opportunity."

Talbert said he has been working for the citizens of Pierce County for over 20 years and now serves on the county council, where he chaired the shoreline master plan. "District 7 (which includes the Key Peninsula) has almost all of the

marine shorelines," he said. "There were many constituency groups who wanted to protect their interests. I wanted to ensure their voices were heard. The master plan was adopted by a 6-1 vote.

"The part of Tacoma I grew up in and still live in is often overlooked and neglected. I can relate to similar concerns from the KP, being isolated," he said.

Talbert's priorities for the Key Peninsula include expanding access to information and services, and technological improvements. "I want to bring resources out to an area, like permits and land services, and video-Skyping inspections," he said. "It's a style issue. I would rather be out meeting with people in their communities, to bring government into the communities, to create neighborhood councils like the Key Peninsula Council, to give local communities authority and access to resources and build off it, to provide resources through funding." He cited examples like Safe Streets, safe routes for pedestrians, sheriff's detachment offices and franchise agreements for telephone and internet services.

"The county needs to play a larger role to expand broadband services to meet residential needs and as a marketing advantage to attract new business," he said.

"I am committed to the citizens of Pierce County. I am a lifelong resident of Pierce County. I love what I do, and I am good at it. This position would be a culmination of my life's work."

Talbert favors the Democratic party, but he said, "What we do should be focused on citizens and not on the party."

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The Patriotic Service tree, left, was provided by the Key Peninsula Veterans, which will use proceeds to purchase flag poles at Gateway Park. The Under the Sea tree was decorated by the church craft program, which gives proceeds to the church community outreach programs. The community meals program provided the North Woods wreath. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

Christmas Tree Celebration to Assist Local Nonprofits

COLLEEN SLATER, KP NEWS

The Key Peninsula Lutheran Church is adding a new event to its annual Christmas bazaar Nov. 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to bring community together and support nonprofits in the area. Over a dozen Christmas trees decorated by various nonprofit agencies, organizations and churches will be on display. The trees will be auctioned off during the annual Christmas tree celebration and community meal Dec. 3, 4 to 7 p.m. (auction starts at 5:30 p.m.). Proceeds will go to the organization that provided the tree or to a charity of its choosing. Some of the organizations that will have a tree include the church, the Key Peninsula Veterans, the Bischoff Food Bank, Cub Scouts, Church of the Nazarene and the Key Peninsula Historical Society. New features this year include a Seahawks table featuring wreaths, clothing, decorations and more Seahawks-related items; "the redneck table," with handcrafted items and decorations for a country home; the pet table with items for pets, including treats, clothing, beds and toys; a men's table with handmade toolboxes and various other items; and the art and photography table, with pictures and paintings created by local artists. The "Scandia" or baked goods table, one of the more popular features from past events, will have a huge assortment of Scandinavian and German treats as well as other home-made items including a wide variety of jams and jellies. Santa will visit from 1:30 to 3 p.m. for pictures with the young ones. The Christmas bazaar kicks off with a free breakfast starting at 9 a.m. at McCotley Hall, 4213 Lackey Road (junction of Lackey with Key Peninsula Highway). Sales start at 9:30. R & J Meats will be on location from 11 a.m. until sold out. Smoked ribs, coleslaw and a creamed cornbread muffin will be for sale for \$15. Community meals are free but donations are appreciated.

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Schuyler Alton of the Peninsula High School C-team football squad makes a fingertip catch in the endzone as PHS shut-out North Thurston 41-0 on Oct. 6. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



Ed Johnson's photograph of Lakebay Marina won second place in Harbor WildWatch's Beauty and the Beaches contest last month. All of the entries are on exhibit at the Skansie House in Gig Harbor. *Photo: Ed Johnson, award-winning photographer, KP News*



Lisa McPherson recently spent a day filling garbage bags with litter along a 200-yard stretch of Creviston Drive, near her home. "I just got tired of the trash," she said. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



Kathleen Gamble shops for a new hat at the Fiber Arts Show at the LIC Oct. 1. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*



Erin Ewald and Brian Phipps from Taylor Shellfish Co. serves local oysters at Flavors of Fall Oct. 8. *Photo: Ed Johnson, KP News*

Where in the world



The Moselles - Johnsons - Jaegers of Taylor Bay at Mr. Sancho's in Cozumel on a Caribbean cruise.

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